



Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

Webisode #16 – Interview with Ranger Libby Schaaf Transcript

Ranger Patrick: Hello, this is Ranger Patrick with another webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. Today I'm here with Ranger Libby and we're here to talk about new things happening at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Libby, welcome to the show.

Ranger Libby: Hi Ranger Patrick, I'm excited to be here. If you've been at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center recently, you know there has been a tremendous amount of construction work going on. The park developed a plan to provide easy public access to the visitor center, Books & More store and the restrooms at the Canyon View Information Plaza. All summer construction crews have been building new parking lots for cars and for commercial tour buses. A new shuttle bus stop that will consolidate several bus stops in one location – the Village Route, the Kaibab Route and the summertime Tusayan Shuttle Route. Soon you will be able to park your car near the Visitor Center and get on the shuttles to tour Grand Canyon and have a "greener visit". Visitors will save on fuel costs and be able to relax and enjoy the scenery without having to worry about how to get around the park.

Patrick: You know Libby, I noticed some folks outside the visitor center digging in the dirt moving plants around. What are those folks up to?

Libby: Before the construction work even started, the park's revegetation crew identified areas of trees, bushes and small plants that would be impacted. Many of these plants were dug up, kept in a holding area over the summer and watered and now they are being planted to restore areas to a more natural condition. We went to great lengths to save as many plants as possible. Several groups have been involved in this reveg project including the Student Conservation Association and Elderhostel volunteers.

Patrick: So is there something else happening at the visitor center?

Libby: There is. Coming up on Monday December 7, which isn't too far off, there will be our Community Holiday Open House sponsored by Grand Canyon National Park Service and Grand Canyon Association. This is our fifth annual event. So we hope you will come out and join us.

Patrick: So what will be happening at this event?

Libby: There will be several hands on activities for all ages at the Visitor Center. You can join us to make a split-twigg figurine, similar to artifacts that have been found throughout remote caves of Grand Canyon or you could also make a pinch pot out of clay and compare your work to thousand year old pots which were used for cooking, serving or storing food.

Patrick: Where is the Community Holiday Open House?

Libby: This event will take place at the Canyon View Information Plaza from 6:30 to 8:30pm on December 7th. At the Visitor Center there will be the children's choir from Grand Canyon school that will start singing right at 6:30pm so be sure to be there on time to hear these wonderful kids singing and then ranger led activities will follow after that. Across the plaza at the Books and More Store, the 30% off merchandise sale and guest authors will be signing at the Books & More store. Be sure to get over there for some great shopping opportunities.

Patrick: You know I heard last year there was some special guest, wore an interesting suit. Is this person going to be there this year?

Libby: Yes he is! A jolly old man in a red suit who says ho ho ho, is expected to make an appearance. So, take note of that if you have young kids that might want to visit him.

Patrick: That sounds like a lot of fun. Libby, do you have any final thoughts for our listeners?

Libby: As people take part in the community holiday open house, we hope they will reflect on how Grand Canyon National Park preserves not only spectacular scenery but it is also a fantastic place to work and live because of our sense of community.

Patrick: Well Libby, thanks so much for being on the show. I appreciate you sharing with the folks the event coming up and also all the changes that are happening here at the visitor center. Would you be willing to visit us again as changes keep occurring at the visitor center?

Libby: I sure would because there are more changes happening in the future. We continually try to make is a better experience to come to Grand Canyon National Park.

Patrick: Well folks, I hope to see you at that event. This is Ranger Patrick...

...and **Ranger Libby**...

Patrick: We'll catch you next time on Insider's Look at Grand Canyon.